

THE Numismatist

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The American Numismatic Association (ANA), a nonprofit, educational organization, was founded in 1891 and claims members all over the world. The Association's official magazine, *The Numismatist*, was first published in 1888 by Dr. George F. Heath. Chartered for 50 years by an Act of Congress in 1912 and renewed in perpetuity by an Act of Congress on June 10, 1962, the ANA is a mutual organization for the benefit of its members. It does not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, disability, or any other status protected by state or local law.

Contributors

William Eckberg began collecting coins as a Boy Scout. He worked at Howard University and as an administrator at the National Science Foundation. He is a past president of Early American Coppers and a member of the Rittenhouse Society. His book *The Half Cent, 1793-1857: The Story of America's Greatest Little Coin* was published in 2019.



ECKBERG

An avid coin enthusiast for 30 years, **Mark Fox** joined the ANA in 2007. Besides *The Numismatist*, he has had articles published in *Coins*, *The Celator*, *Numismatic News*, *World Coin News*, and several other publications. He is also an editorial board member of the classical numismatic journal *KO/NON*.

Kenneth Bressett is probably most famous for his work as editor (and now editor emeritus) of *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book") for the past 50 years. An ANA past president and previous member of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, Bressett has received numerous awards, including the American Numismatic Society's Distinguished Service Award and the ANA's Farran Zerbe Memorial Award.



BRESSETT

Ángel O. Navarro Zayas is the first Puerto Rican and Hispanic person to receive an Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society 2020-23 research grant. He also received the Jaime González Award from the Puerto Rico Numismatic Society (2023) and a third-place Catherine Sheehan Literary Award (2019). Navarro Zayas has done extensive research on Puerto Rican and Caribbean numismatics. He is a history professor at the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, San Germán Campus.

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Spanish General Arsenio Martínez-Campos is shown riding into Havana, Cuba, at the end of the Great War in 1878.

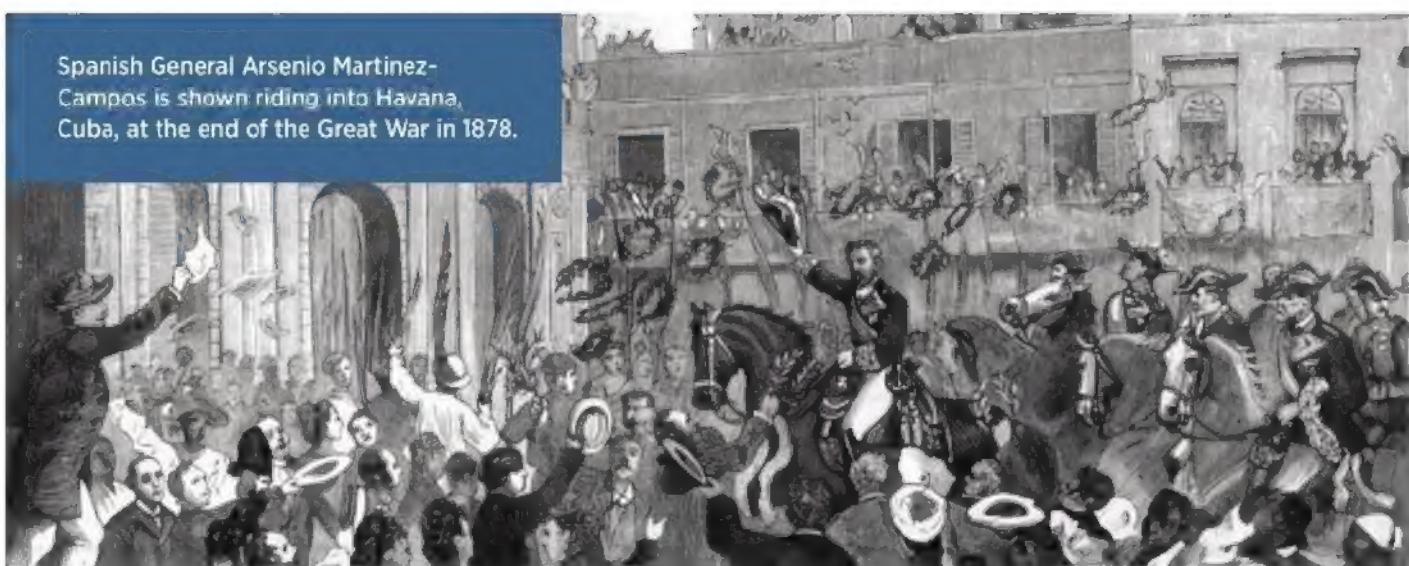


PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Spain's Military Sons

Puerto Rico petitioned the Spanish government to honor its soldiers for their loyalty.

→ In the late 19th century, Puerto Rico and Cuba were the last Spanish colonies in the Caribbean. Consequently, the two Antillean islands shared a profound historical and cultural affinity. In 1882-83, the Provincial Council of Puerto Rico petitioned Spanish authorities to issue a commemorative medal to the Puerto Rican military for its participation in the Carlist Wars (1833-76) and the Ten Years' War, or Great War, of Cuba (1868-78).

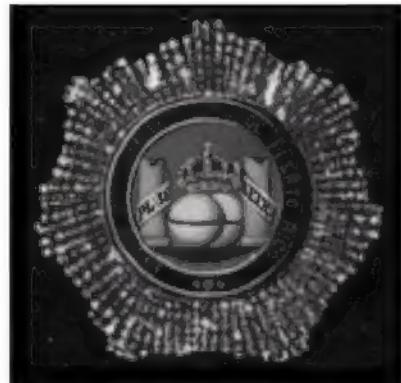
THE CARLIST WARS

The Carlist Wars were a series of civil wars in Spain. The Carlists, followers of Don Carlos (1788-1855), were traditionalists who opposed the actions pursued by liberal administrations. Carlism maintained substantial popular support, especially in Navarre, Catalonia, the Basque country, and portions of Castile and Aragon. The Carlist forces, comprised of competent and gifted leaders and zealous soldiers, established an embryonic state and engaged in persistent and consecutive military assaults against the liberal regimes.

In the final conflict, the Third Carlist War, generals overthrew Queen Isabel II in 1868 and expelled her from Spain. Amadeo I of Savoy proclaimed himself king and ruled from 1870 to 1873, when he abdicated the throne. Spain's First Republic was then instituted, which included Puerto Rico and Cuba. Isabel's son Alfonso XII later reinstated the monarchy.

CUBA'S GREAT WAR

The uprising that turned into the Ten Years' War, in which Cuba and later Puerto Rico aimed to free themselves from Spain's colonial rule, began with the Grito de Yara ("Cry of Yara") in Cuba. Many Spanish-loyal Puerto Ricans fought for the peninsular cause during the turbulent conflict. Additionally, Cuban exiles living in New York City were instrumental in the rebellions. A considerable number



↑ Spanish authorities did not approve this commemorative military medal for Puerto Rican soldiers.

Not Actual Size

of Cuban dissidents orchestrated political activities and furnished the insurgents with funds, weapons, and personnel. However, Spain ultimately emerged victorious.

MILITARY MEDAL

The request for the commemorative medal can be found in Spain's national archives in Madrid. A few years after the end of both wars, on December 9, 1882, Puerto Rico's Provincial

Council requested the medal for the Puerto Rican military who intervened in the war in Cuba and against the Carlists. The council requested "the granting of a medal commemorative for the military sons of the Province." The Spanish government, however, denied the production and presentation of the medal to the valiant Puerto Ricans who fought in both conflicts.

It is noteworthy to mention that the design purportedly originated from Puerto Rico. The medal would've read ESPAÑA A SUS LEALES HIJOS DE PUERTO RICO ("Spain to its Loyal Sons of Puerto Rico.") The central motif was to feature the columns of Hercules with their broken capitals. Between the columns are two spheres with a royal crown above them. Despite its rejection by Spanish authorities, this piece constitutes an important addition to the history of Puerto Rico military medals at the end of the 19th century.

—Ángel O. Navarro Zayas